

Lucia Fabio

Cenerentola, 2006

Watercolor, ink, Plexiglas, volcanic ashes from Mt. Etna, Sicily, box

Books: 2 1/2" x 5 5/8" each Box: 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" x 3 3/4"

Lucy Fabio

Artist's Statement

Growing up in an Italian household, I heard many fairy tales not only in English, but also in Italian. It was always a bit difficult to discern the two different versions, never knowing which one to believe. Disney's version of Cinderella is one the most influential stories ever told to me. Not only are the majority of my beliefs embedded within it, it is at the same level of importance as my heritage, and combining the two is a real amazing experience. I was able to really think about the language, something that is extremely difficult since I was never taught to read or write in Italian, but am able to speak it fluently. But most of all I wanted to illustrate the story the way that I see it: full of very delicate gesture and fantasy.

The Italian version has a few differences, but it is the same basic story since they were both taken from the French writer, Charles Perrault. But there is always something magical about hearing that same beloved story in Italian; somehow it made it more beautiful and eloquent. Like Cinderella was just like me—living in both the Italian and American realm. That was one of the inspirations of having two separate books, which are to be viewed at the same time, and not to have an English version. The illustrations alone would be enough for the viewer to imagine Cinderella and to compare the two unintentionally. The box which holds both of the books is made to be small, precious, to be held in one's hands—the same way I feel about the story. The interactive aspect of moving the ashes around the box refers back to the transformation of Cinderella.